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Glossary

Federalist favored a strong central government

Antifederalist favored statesí rights

Constitution a document recording a system of fundamental laws and

principles that prescribes the nature, functions, and

limits of a government or another institution

Bill of Rights the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution;

generally a summary of those rights considered essential

to a group of people

Convention formal meeting of members, representatives, or

delegates

Motion formal proposal put to a vote

Debate an argument that discusses opposing points

Freeman person who possesses rights and privileges of a citizen

Freeholder holder of an estate held for life, a property owner

Declaration of Rights a list of rights, compiled by the First Provincial

Congress, of rights and liberties that delegates felt they

would be losing

General Assembly Senate and House of Representatives together

Ratification act of approving or giving sanction to

Biographical Sketches





John Adams

National Leaders

Adams, John (1735-1826): Federalist delegate to the First and Second Continental Congresses, a leading proponent for independence, elected Vice President in 1788

Muhlenberg, Frederick Augustus Conrad (1750-1801): a minister and Federalist delegate from Pennsylvania to the Continental Congress, Speaker of the House of Representatives for the First and Third Congresses

State Leaders

Blount, William (1749-1800): Federalist delegate to the Continental Congress who helped draft and signed the Constitution, and in the second N.C. ratification convention helped bring about the state's approval

Davie, William Richardson (1756-1820): Federalist framer of the Constitution, introduced and guided the bill to ratify the Constitution in the second N.C. ratification convention

Iredell, James, Sr. (1751-1799): ardent Federalist and writer of several pamphlets supporting the Constitution

Johnston, Samuel (1733-1816): moderate Federalist and president of both N.C. ratification conventions, became the state's first U.S. senator

Jones, Willie [pronounced Wiley] (1741-1801): Antifederalist delegate to the first N.C. ratification convention, refused to run as a delegate to the second convention when he could see that the Federalists were going to be successful

Martin, Alexander (1738-1807): a moderate Federalist and delegate to the Constitutional Congress, was not an active debater and did not attend the two N.C. ratification conventions

Person, Thomas (1733-1800): Antifederalist who attended both N.C. ratification conventions, his greatest worry was the federal power to tax

Spaight, Richard Dobbs (1758-1802): the state's delegate to the constitutional convention and signer of the Constitution, supporter of a strong federal government, attended the first N.C. ratification convention

Spencer, Samuel (1734-1793): leader of the state's Antifederalists at the N.C. ratification conventions, refused to vote for the Constitution without a bill of rights

Williamson, Hugh (1735-1819): Tyrrell County delegate to the second N.C. convention and strong supporter of the ratification of the Constitution, one of the state's signers of the Constitution, considered an excellent debater, served on many committees